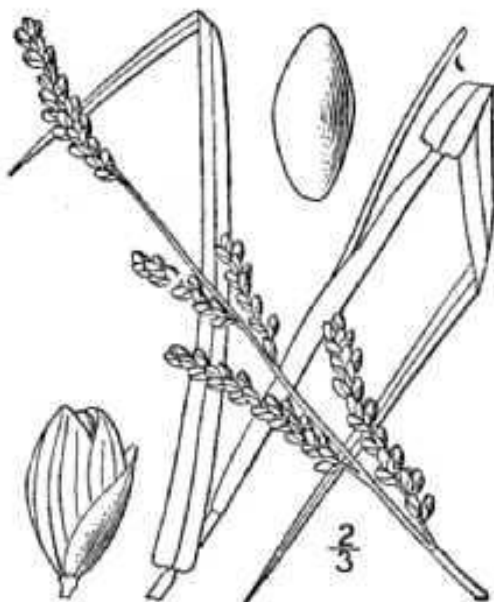


VINE MESQUITE

Panicum obtusum Kunth

Plant symbol = PAOB

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From Britton & Brown (1913)
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Alternate Names

vine-mesquite, panic grass, vine mesquite grass

Uses

Grazing is the primary use of vine mesquite, but it has been cut for hay. It is used to control erosion in waterways and small gullies. Quail and doves eat the seed in the fall and early winter.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values.

Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Vine mesquite is a native, warm-season, stoloniferous perennial. The height

ranges from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 feet. The leaf blade is long; narrow, upright, and smooth. The leaf sheath is mostly basal and one-half to three-fourths as long as the internodes. The stolon is several feet long with long internodes, the nodes swollen and covered with hair. The seedhead has a narrow panicle 1 to 4 inches long with the spikelets large, nearly round, and brownish.

Management

This grass is seldom abundant enough to be a key management species. Generally, it is less palatable than most grasses associated with it therefore, it is seldom overgrazed. When used for hay or erosion control, grazing should be deferred until after seed production.

Establishment

Growth starts in April or May. It produces seedheads in July and August. The seeds are slow to disseminate. It reproduces from both stolons and seed. It is often associated with other grasses, but grows in more or less pure stands. It grows mostly in small depressions or along drainageways where water accumulates. It grows best on sandy to sandy loam soils, but also grows on clay loams and gravelly loams.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS Agriculture Handbook No. 389, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <<http://plants.usda.gov>> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>.

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